Student representation on Boards of Studies

Students are the primary stakeholders of any Higher Education Institution, so empowering the students' voice is essential in safeguarding the quality of educational outcomes. The active participation of students in their educational journey is ultimately what helps them transcend from being mere passive receivers of information to being engaged co-creators in a meaningful learning experience.

At UM, various channels are made available to students to express their ideas, concerns, opinions and feedback regarding every aspect of their University life. One of the most pertinent formal avenues for this active participation is the representation of students on **Boards of Studies**. Student representatives on such Boards of Studies are selected via an election organised directly by the respective Faculty, Institute, Centre or School (FICS), as opposed to student representatives on the FICS Board, which entails a process facilitated by the Office of the Registrar.

FICS are thus responsible for planning and executing the selection or election process for student representatives on their Boards of Studies. The Quality Assurance Committee encourages FICS to further announce the appointed student representatives on their respective webpages, in the interest of ensuring that all students are made aware of who their representatives are.

A number of good practices have been observed to this effect on the webpages of a number of FICS, such as the below:

- Faculty of Information & Communication Technology
- Faculty of Media & Knowledge Sciences
- Faculty of Medicine & Surgery
- Institute of Earth Systems

Nurturing student representation on Boards of Studies is an excellent way to "improve formal feedback systems between students and academics", which in turn *maintains the relevance of teaching programmes* - one of the main commitments of the Learning and Teaching pillar of the University's Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Through this Quality Mailshot Initiative, the QAC aims to disseminate best practices at UM that align with both national and European standards for quality in higher education. If you have an example of good QA practice which you would like us to share, please get in touch with us at **qac@um.edu.mt**